

REMARKS

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed in view of the Office Action dated 12 September 2002. Responsive to the rejections made in that Office Action, Claims 4, 6, and 7 are amended for further prosecution. It is believed that with such amendment of claims, there is a further clarification of Applicant's invention for this Patent Application.

In reviewing the Drawings, a typographical error in a block diagram label was noted in each of the FIGS. 1 and 3. Accordingly, Marked Versions of FIGS. 1 and 3 are attached for the Examiner's review and approval. The marked corrections shall be formally incorporated upon the Examiner's approval and finding of allowable subject matter in this case. It is requested that the requirement for submission of such formal corrections be held in abeyance until that time.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected pending Claims 4-9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Villa-Real reference. In setting forth this rejection, the Examiner correlated a number of Applicant's claimed features with those inferred from the Villa-Real reference. Among the apparent disclosures inferred by the Examiner are those relating to the disclosed control unit monitoring the number of operations and operational duration, the display of pertinent warning messages, and the use of a predetermined threshold value.

As newly-amended independent Claim 4 now recites even more clearly, Applicant's digital pressure gauge is one whose control unit "monitor[s] cumulative usage of the digital

pressure gauge,” that is operable to “automatically maintain[] relative to a prior calibration at least one of a count parameter corresponding to a number of operations of the digital gauge and an operational duration parameter corresponding to a usage period thereof.” The control unit thus operates automatically to generate “a warning message indicating that calibration is required,” when one or both of these “parameters exceed[s] a predetermined threshold value corresponding thereto.”

Such features are nowhere disclosed or even suggested by the cited Villa-Real reference. To the contrary, the reference makes clear that certain of the features which the Examiner attributed thereto are quite different from those recited by Applicant’s pending claims. Note, for instance, that while a general counting capability is inherent to a microcomputer device that is employed by Villa-Real, the reference itself prescribes neither a count parameter nor an operational duration parameter for, specifically, “monitoring cumulative usage of the digital pressure gauge,” as Applicant’s newly-amended independent Claim 4 now more clearly recites. Nor does the reference anywhere specify the use of any “warning message indicating that calibration is required,” let alone the automatic display of such message “responsive to at least one of . . . [a] count and duration parameters exceeding a predetermined threshold value corresponding thereto,” as Claim 4 also now more clearly recites.

The reference nowhere even hints at a need to monitor the disclosed device’s cumulative usage for calibration-alerting purposes. In fact, the reference itself boasts as one

of its advantages freedom from the calibration worries plaguing such “[o]ther devices us[ing] aneroid gauges which have many mechanical parts requiring frequent calibration,” (column 3; lines 34-35).

Perhaps even more telling is that the predetermined threshold level attributed to the reference by the Examiner constitutes the “pressure threshold” which a user may set at will using the thumbwheel 10 of the disclosed device shown in FIG. 1. The reference explains unambiguously that this “pressure threshold setting means” is employed specifically “to effect conservation of electrical energy,” (column 5; lines 63-64), not to provide any calibration reminders. That is, the pressure threshold setting is used to appropriately trigger actuation of the device’s micro-electronic circuitry such that “the measurement of systolic and diastolic blood pressures as well as the pulse rate when in the pressure measuring mode,” occurs “only after the pressure exerted by the optimally placed pressure head applying means upon the subject’s arm has exceeded the manually or electronically set pressure threshold setting,” (column 5; line 66 - column 6; line 3). This hardly constitutes the “predetermined threshold value corresponding” to either of a “count parameter corresponding to a number of operations of the digital pressure gauge,” or “an operational duration parameter corresponding to a usage period thereof,” that Applicant’s newly-amended independent Claim 4 now more clearly recites.

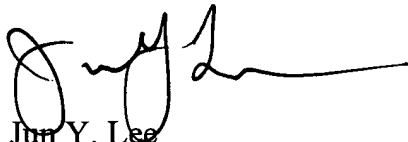
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It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that cited Villa-Real reference fails to disclose the unique combination of elements recited now by Applicant's pending claims for the purposes and objectives disclosed in the subject Patent Application.

It is believed that the subject Patent Application has been placed in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

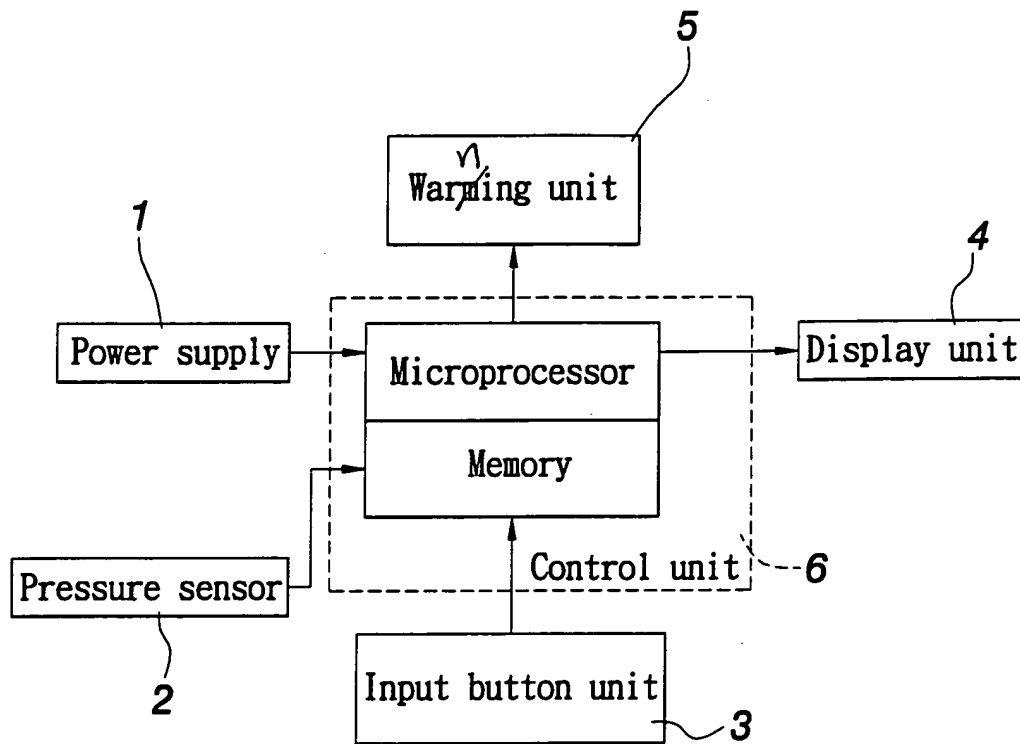
For: ROSENBERG, KLEIN & LEE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jun Y. Lee', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

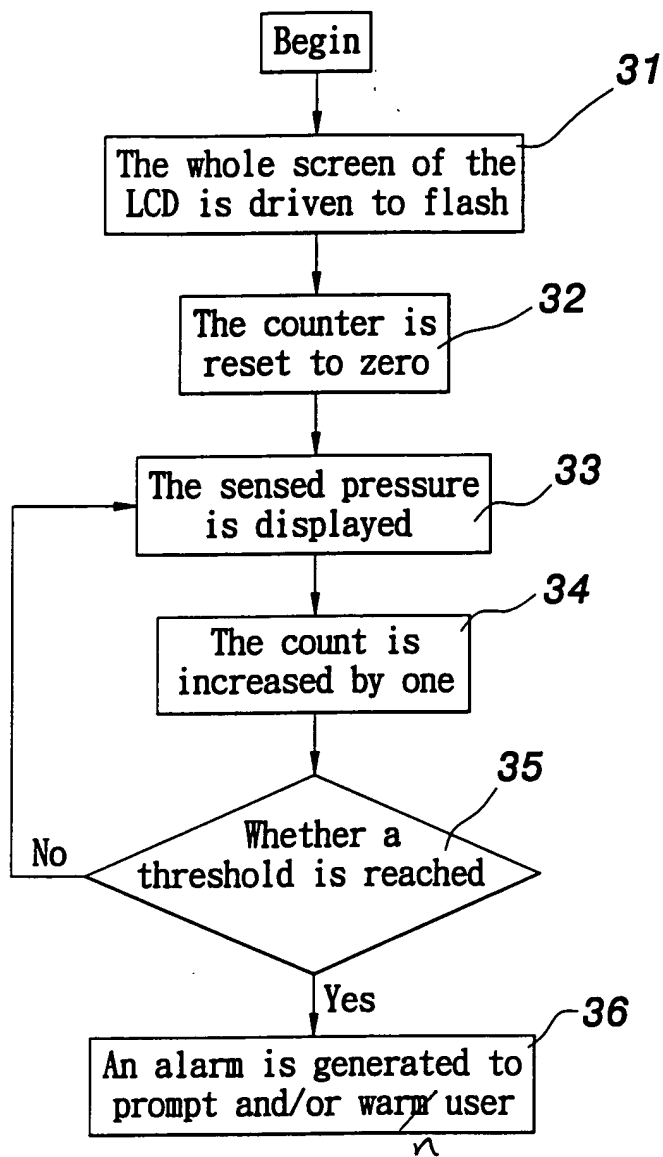
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**FIG. 1**



**FIG. 3**